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INVENTOR IN PEOPLE

3090.1002-000

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Your Reference: RJG/MTS/24472
Application No: GB 0214417.8

13 December 2002

Dear Sirs

Patents Act 1977:
Combined Search and Examination Report under Sections 17 and 18(3)

Latest date for reply: 23 June 2003

I enclose two copies of my search and examination report and a copy of the citations.

By the above date you should either file amendments to meet the objections in the report or make observations on them. If you do not, the application may be refused.

Publication

I estimate that, provided you have met all formal requirements, preparations for publication of your application will be completed soon after **14 January 2003**. You will then receive a letter informing you of completion and telling you the publication number and date of publication.

Amendment/withdrawal

If you wish to file amended claims for inclusion with the published application, or to withdraw the application to prevent publication, you must do so before the preparations for publication are completed. **No reminder will be issued.** If you write to the Office less than 3 weeks before the above completion date, please mark your letter prominently: **"URGENT - PUBLICATION IMMINENT"**.

¹Use of E-mail: Please note that e-mail should be used for correspondence only.



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Yours faithfully

Karl Whitfield
Examiner

Important information about combined search and examination

I also ask that you take note of the following points. These might have a bearing on the future stages of your application because the examination report has been sent to you before your application has been published.

- (a) You may file voluntary amendments before making a full response to my examination report. We will publish with your application any new or amended claims you file voluntarily or as a full response, provided that they are received before preparations for publication are completed. It would help us when you file amendments before publication if you could **prominently indicate** in a covering letter whether or not the amendments are intended as a full response to the examination report.
- (b) If you file a full response to the examination report before your application is published I will consider it as soon as possible. However, if this would disrupt the publication of your application, I would have to delay taking any action until the application had been published. This delay could be up to 3 months, depending upon when we receive your response.
- (c) There is another situation when there might be a delay between you filing a full response and the Patent Office responding to it. This would arise if you met all my objections but your application had not or had only recently been published. I could not report the outcome of my re-examination until I was satisfied that the search was complete for documents published before the priority date of your invention and that anybody interested in the application has had three months following publication of the application to make observations on the patentability of your invention.
- (d) Provided that the requirements of the Act have been met, I can send your application to grant as early as three months after publication. Before doing so I will bring the original search up to date and raise with you any further objection that might result from this top-up search. However, there is a possibility that at that time I may not have access to all the patent applications published after the priority date of your invention and of possible relevance to your application. If this is the case I would have to complete the search after grant and if necessary raise any new found novelty objection then.



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Application No: GB 0214417.8
Claims searched: 1-16

Examiner: Karl Whitfield
Date of search: 13 December 2002

Patents Act 1977 : Search Report under Section 17

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance
X	1-16	US 5840141 (KORBEL) see col 12 lines 48-54
X	1-16	US 5595804 (KORBEL) see col 12 lines 59-65
X	1-16	US 4194618 (MALLOY) see col 7 lines 46-55
X	1-16	US 4144219 (MALLOY) see col 7 lines 41-52
X	1-16	US 4027435 (MALLOY) see col 7 lines 46-58
X	1-16	US 3763604 (MALLOY) see col 10 line 39

Categories:

X Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category	F Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
& Member of the same patent family	E Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC¹:

B3D, B5K

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC²:

B24D, B29C

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report:

Online databases: Derwent World Patents Index, Patent Abstracts of Japan and European Patent Office



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Patents Act 1977

Combined Search and Examination Report under Sections 17 & 18(3)

Novelty

1. The invention as defined in claims 1-16 is not new because it has already been disclosed in each of the following documents:

US 5840141 (KORBEL)
US 5595804 (KORBEL)
US 4194618 (MALLOY)
US 4144219 (MALLOY)
US 4027435 (MALLOY)
US 3763604 (MALLOY)

2. All the documents disclose the use of blocked isocyanate urethane adhesive to join the ends of abrasive sheets in the formation of abrasive belts.

Inventive step

3. Since it is acknowledged as known to adhesively join the ends of abrasive sheets to form belts it is not clear how to use a known class of adhesives to form the adhesive joint, as required in claims 1 to 16, is inventive.

The title of the invention

4. The title of your specification does not clearly indicate the nature of your invention. I suggest "Abrasive belts" would be a better title.

Registered Trade Marks

5. Although they should preferably be avoided, if you wish to keep the references to the Registered Trade Marks "Baypret", "Adiprene" and "Ethacure" on pages 9 and 10 of your specification, you should acknowledge that they are Registered Trade Marks, possibly by using the abbreviation "(RTM)". If you do not insert an acknowledgment, I will do so in manuscript.